

Short-Term | Primary Media Statements

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

This site is located on the western bank of the San Jacinto River, just north of Interstate 10. The Site contains dangerous waste from a paper company that is no longer in business. Although the waste was released over forty years ago, *it is still important* to clean up the Site as soon as possible.

(The Superfund is the federal program that works to clean up hazardous waste sites. The Environmental Protection Agency directs all Superfund activities.)

The first stage of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (the Site) cleanup process is set to begin in April [*or a date certain TBD*].

This means the EPA will make sure samples are taken from several sources, including the river, the bottom of the river and from areas immediately surrounding the Site. Activities in this first stage will help determine whether this area is safe to use for fishing or other recreational uses.

Safety is important. The EPA has a mission to protect human health and the environment. As of April __, the Site and the shoreline are closed to the public, for your safety.

Fencing and other access barriers have been put up to help keep people safe while this environmental clean-up project takes place.

Signs have also been posted on the Site to let everyone know that:

- people should stay off the Site because the area may be dangerous
- people should not eat fish or crab from the San Jacinto River, the Houston Ship Channel, Tabbs Bay and Upper Galveston Bay north of Red Bluff Point to Five Mile Cut Marker to Houston Point.
- Even if you have been fishing in the San Jacinto River for a long time and eating the fish, you should STOP until the EPA has determined whether these activities are a danger to human health or the environment.

There are many sources of pollution that may lead to the San Jacinto River being unsafe. The public should continue to follow all existing official warning signs about the risk of eating catfish or blue crab caught in the San Jacinto River.

Multiple community organizations, government agencies and elected officials (*list all by name*) are working to help inform the public about the clean-up process, the fish advisory and other parts of this project.

Further Background about the Project and the Site:

- A team of engineering and environmental professionals are working to restore the site.
- Areas will be studied where sand dredging and other sediment-movement activity occurred in the late 1990s. These studies will help determine if other areas may be affected.
- Costs for these actions are being paid by two companies under the direction of U.S. EPA. These companies are McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC) and International Paper.
- For more information about this project, please visit [*appropriate EPA Web site link*].
- The TCEQ also has a link to the EPA Web site at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/superfund/epa/sanjacpits>.
- Community flyers are also available through [*appropriate contact*].

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